

Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Site State of the Cleanup



August 2017



Like other complex Superfund sites, the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) Superfund site is a multi-phased process. Since LDW became a Superfund site in 2001, five Early Action Area (EAA) cleanups have focused on sediment hotspots (areas of highly contaminated mud on the river bottom). The EAAs removed an estimated 50% of the PCB-contaminated sediment. In 2014, EPA completed the study of the overall site and published a final cleanup plan (Record of Decision) for remaining contaminated sediments.

The Washington Department of Ecology is responsible for controlling sources of contamination to the LDW site. Ecology and EPA will continue coordinating their activities to ensure that sediment cleanup work does not become recontaminated to a level requiring additional cleanup.

This year, waterway users are being surveyed to make sure that changes in land use are factored into the cleanup design. In 2017 and 2018, testing of sediment, water, and seafood will be done to establish new baseline conditions. Over the coming years, EPA expects PRPs (parties potentially responsible for cleanup costs) to design and construct the remaining sediment cleanup and to monitor and maintain the site over time. As cleanup and source control continue, testing will be repeated to assess progress towards long-term cleanup goals.

*For more information about the Record of Decision and next steps, please contact: **Elly Hale** • 206-553-1215 • hale.elly@epa.gov*

During this and all phases of the cleanup, we will continue to work with and involve communities in the cleanup. One example of this is the formation of the Duwamish Roundtable. An organizing committee met in winter and spring of 2017 to plan the Roundtable. We will begin to recruit members to the Roundtable later in 2017. *If you are interested in participating in the Roundtable, please contact:*

Julie Congdon • 206-553-2752 • congdon.julie@epa.gov

Come talk to us!

Coffee Chat

Monday, October 23, 2017

Drop in any time between 4 and 7 p.m.

All City Coffee, 1205 S Vale St, Seattle, WA 98108

Talk informally with project staff. Give your feedback on the cleanup.

Contact: **Julie Congdon**, US EPA • 206-553-2752 • 800-424-4372 ext. 2752 •

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EPA's Recent Cleanup Work in the Waterway

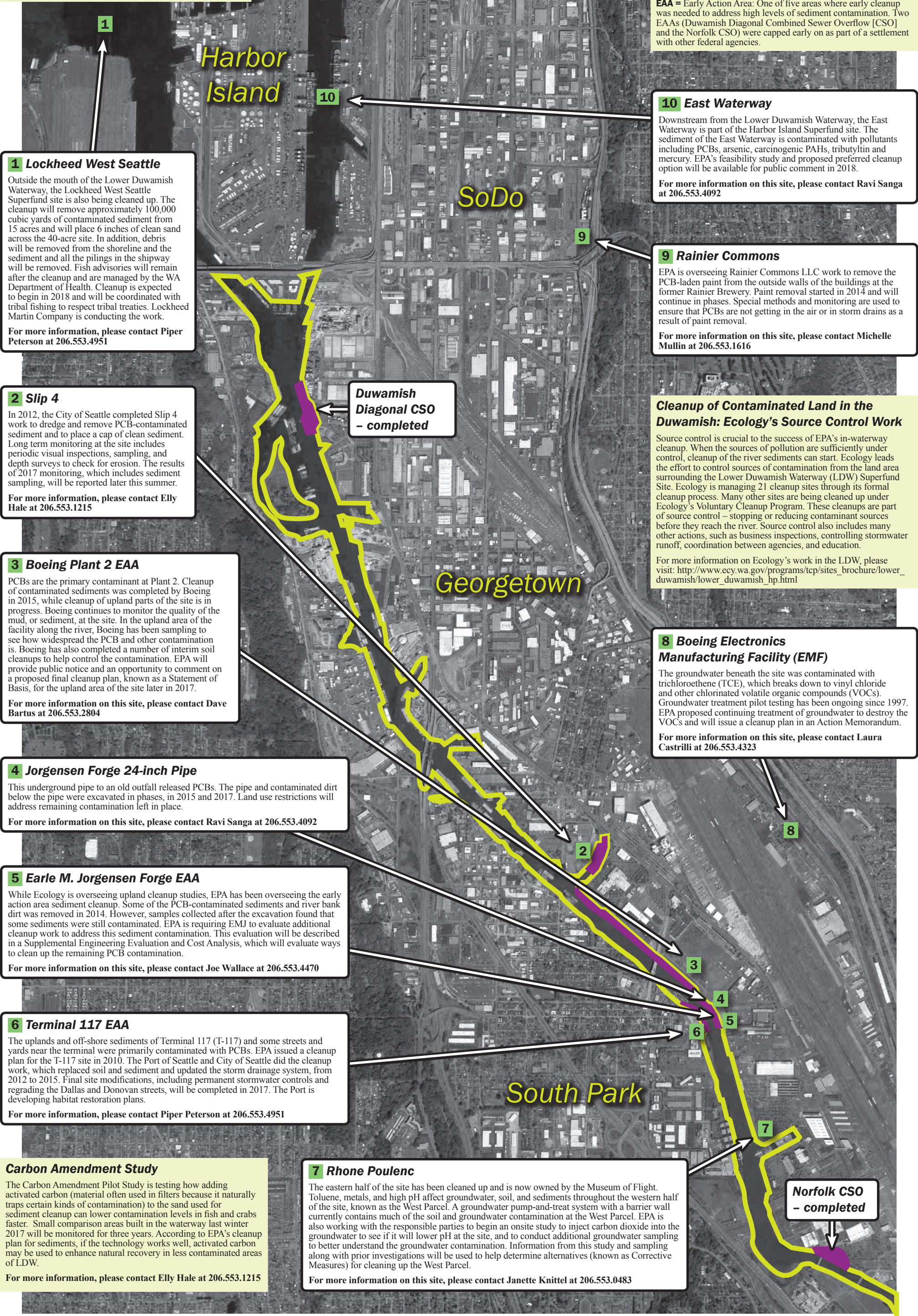
- Lower Duwamish Waterway
- Early Action Area (EAA)

Acronyms

RCRA = Resource Conservation & Recovery Act

CERCLA = Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, best known as **Superfund**

EAA = Early Action Area: One of five areas where early cleanup was needed to address high levels of sediment contamination. Two EAAs (Duwamish Diagonal Combined Sewer Overflow [CSO] and the Norfolk CSO) were capped early on as part of a settlement with other federal agencies.



What about fishing on the Duwamish?

Many people enjoy fishing on the Duwamish River. However, the resident seafood that live in the river year-round are not safe to eat. To get a better idea of who fishes on the river and their fishing practices, EPA completed the Fishers Study in 2016. Some of the key findings from the Study were:

- Fishing is an important activity for the wellbeing of fishers and creates a sense of community.
- Fishers on the Duwamish are very diverse, represented more than 20 ethnic/language groups.
- Fishers continue to consume and share their catch, including resident fish, crab and shellfish.
- The advisory information is hard to understand, and signs are not entirely effective in promoting safe fish consumption.
- Promoting healthy fish consumption must connect with the local fishing culture. Rather than asking “why don’t fishers follow the advisory?” the question should be reframed as “how do we meet the needs of the fishers to promote healthy fish consumption?”

In January 2017, EPA entered into a Cooperative Agreement (CA) with Public Health Seattle-King County to establish a community-based Healthy Seafood Consumption Institutional Control (IC) Program for the LDW Superfund Site. The CA establishes a community-based participatory process to develop culturally-appropriate IC tools that can be implemented throughout the cleanup of the LDW Superfund Site. The program will promote healthy seafood consumption before, during, and after the cleanup.

For more information about the Fishers Study and the next steps, please contact:

- **US EPA:** Rebecca Chu • (206) 553-1774 • chu.rebecca@epa.gov
- **Public Health Seattle & King County:** Sinang Lee • (206) 263-1192 • sinang.lee@kingcounty.gov

SAFE TO EAT
2-3 MEALS per week

Chum
Coho
Pink
Sockeye

OR

LIMIT
1 MEAL per week

Chinook (King)

OR

CAUTION
2 MEALS per month

Blackmouth Resident Chinook caught during winter

EVERYONE - DO NOT EAT RESIDENT FISH, SHELLFISH, or CRAB
Especially WOMEN who are or may become PREGNANT, NURSING MOTHERS, and CHILDREN.
They have chemicals that can harm the growth and brain development of babies and children.

Meal Size
Adult Child
One meal size is about the size and thickness of your hand.

Crab
Starry flounder
Perch
Clams
Rockfish
Mussels
Sole

For the text of this poster, visit <http://go.usa.gov/x9GXw>

What can I do?

1. The best way to avoid being exposed to contamination in the river is to not eat the resident fish that have the contaminants in their body. It is safe to eat salmon that come to the river because they visit the river for such a short time.
2. Help keep pollutants from getting into the river. Don't put oil and other pollutants into storm drains. Report spills.
3. Help restore habitat, plant trees, and cleanup up trash along the river at parks and on the shoreline by participating in Duwamish Alive and other volunteer events. For more information, please visit <http://www.duwamishalive.org>

To learn more about how to get involved in the cleanup, please contact
Julie Congdon • 206-553-2752

For more information

Elly Hale, **Remedial Project Manager**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
206-553-1215 • hale.elly@epa.gov

Julie Congdon, **Community Involvement Coordinator**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
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For information on **US Environmental Protection Agency's work** in the Lower Duwamish Waterway, please visit: <https://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/lduwamish>

To receive **regular updates** on EPA's cleanup work, please contact Julie Congdon (congdon.julie@epa.gov) to subscribe to the **Duwamish cleanup listserv**.


Follow us on Facebook to stay informed about our cleanup activities and our programs related to the Duwamish area: facebook.com/epaduwamish

For information on **Washington Department of Ecology's work** in the Lower Duwamish Waterway, please visit: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/tcp/sites_brochure/lower_duwamish/lower_duwamish_hp.html

To receive regular updates on Ecology's cleanup work, you can subscribe to its **email listserv** for periodic updates on their source control and cleanup work in the Duwamish:
<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=DUWAMISH-RIVER-UPDATES&A=1>

For information on the **Community Advisory Group**, please contact the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition Technical Advisory Group (DRCC/TAG) at duwamishcleanup.org or contact@duwamishcleanup.org or 206-954-0218.

EPA provides reasonable accommodation to individuals with disabilities where appropriate. If you need a reasonable accommodation, such as requiring information in a certain format (Braille, large print), please notify Julie Congdon, listed above.

 TDD or TTY users, please call 1-800-877-8339 and give the operator Julie's phone number.